

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 161030Z FEB 76 ZFF-5

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6682

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BANGUI 0276

EXDIS

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR QKANTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: GOCAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US IN COUP ATTEMPTS

REF: STATE 037490

1. APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS AND CONCUR IN PERSONAL APPROACH TO TEST WATERS AS OUTLINED STATE 037490. HAVE ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO SEE BOKASSA ON URGENT BASIS, FOR OSTENSIBLE REASONS MENTIONED PARA

THREE REFTEL. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR QUANTON CLOSELY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS.

2. MEANTIME CONTINUING KEEP WATCHFUL EYE ON SITUATION AND HAVE FOLLOWING TO REPORT. CAR RADIO NEWS COMMENTARIES IN PRIME TIME FEBRUARY 14 APPEARED TO BE SETTING STAGE FOR POSSIBLE BOKASSA/GOCAR ACCUSATION OF DIRECT OR TACIT USG INVOLVEMENT IN ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO CUSTOMARY PRACTICE, BROADCAST NOT REPEATED OR EXCERPTED IN SUBSEQUENT NEWS PROGRAMS. MANY OBSERVERS LONGTIME RESIDENT IN CAR BELIEVE GOCAR WILL NOT FURTHER EXPLOIT "FOREIGN POWER" ANGLE TO COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT.

3. HOWEVER, WHATEVER MAY DEVELOP, CERTAIN INUENDOS HAVE

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BEEN MADE IN STATEMENTS BY GOCAR SPOKESMEN WHICH IF

ALLOWED TO STAND COULD CLOUD US/CAR RELATIONS. ON CAR RADIO
FEBRUARY WQRN GOCAR INFO MINISTER N'GAC-VOUETO REFERRED TO
SENIOR FSL MARC CALDO ERRONEOUSLY, AND WE BELIVE INTENTIONALLY,
AS "DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC COUNSEL" (PREMIER CONSEILLER
ADJOINT ERONOMIQUE)NAT AMERICAN EMBASSY BANGUI. CALDO'S RRAQUI
ORIGINS AND PRESENT CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIONALITY WERE HOWEVER
MENTIONED. MUCH WAF MADE OF FACT THAT ME HAD CHANGED HIS
NAME FROM MARC ANTIONE MALIU SOME YEARS AGO. MINISTER STATED
TMAT CALDO HAD PROMISED PUT AT DISPOSITION OF COMMANDANT OBROU,
PRINCIPAL CONSPIRATOR, "SOME MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
THANKS TO A
CREDIT ACCORDED BY AN ENGLISH BANK, THE MONEY TO BE USED FOR
RECTNSTRUCTION OF CAR AFTER OVERTHROW OF BOKASSA REGIME."
CALDO, MINISTER WENT ON, WAS NOT ONLY EGL AWARE OF PLANS
FOR ASSASSINATION BUT WAS, ACCORDING TO OBROU'S TEFOIMONYNN
INSTIGAOOR OF THE PLOT, "WHICH CAME FROM ABROAD."

4. IN FOLLOW-ON COMMENTARY , PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN,
SECRETARY OF STATE VICTOR TETAYAWN DESCRIBED CALDO AS "THAT
VULGAR BAGRANT, FORMER MERCENARY AND AGENO IN THE PAY OF
THE IMPERIALISTS WHO HAS INCITED OTHERS TO THREATEN THE SECURITY
OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN STATE AND TO ATTEMPT TO TAKE THS LIFE OF
THE CHIEF OF STATE." MINISTERNTETEYA CALLED CALDO "THAT
ENIGMATIC MAN WHO WAS THE SILENT PARTNER AND MONEY-LENDER."
TETEYA ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER, IN
INCITING CAR XOUQNG PEOPLE,NCALDO WAS ACTING IN
BEHALF OF ANFOREIGN PTWDR.1 "CALDO HIMSEGF, WITHOUT HAVING
BEEN ACCUSED OF IT, VIGOROUSLY DENIED BEING A CIA AGENT,
MAKING HIMSELF OUT TO BE THE GREATEST FRIEND OF THE CAR,"
ACCORDING TO MINISTER'S CTMMENTARY.

5. MEANWHILE, IN AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN CTMMUNITIES
HERE, THERE IF PERSISTENT, WIDEFPREAD RUMOR WHICH WE ARE NOT
ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT ALL EIGHT OF THOSE CAPUTRDD AND SENTENCED
TO DEATH, INCLUDING FSL CALDO, WERE EXECUTEE AT DAYBREAK ON
FEBRUARY 14.

6. DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS BELIEVE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED
STJTE 037490 STILL FIT SITUATION. WILL THEREFORE PROCEED
WITH BOKJSSA APPOINTMENT ON THIS ASSUMPTION UNLESS HEAR TO
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERVENTION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGUI00276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760058-0367
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760245/aaaabnuq.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 37490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOCAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US IN COUP ATTEMPTS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006